

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: Please cancel all pending claims and replace with the claims listed below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions:

Listing of Claims:

I claim:

1. A method for graphically representing information using one or more software routines that include an electronic toolbox and are capable of displaying the electronic structure created using the software routines, said method comprising:
 - Selecting one or more items from an electronic toolbox provided in a software routine or program, wherein each item is selected to symbolize a topic or issue associated with a specific subject;
 - Identifying at least one connection from the electronic toolbox that represents a logical, intuitive or metamorphical connection between the selected items;
 - connecting one or more items with a connector until each selected item is connected to at least one other selected item;
 - displaying the electronic structure to at least one viewer;
 - recording any communications by the viewer in response to the viewing the electronic structure; and
 - storing one or more explanations of any symbolic representations reflected each item and connection included within the electronic structure.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - providing a viewer with one or more electronically stored explanations and an electronic copy of the structure;
 - permitting the viewer to modify the electronic structure by selecting one or more additional items from the electronic toolbox that represent information about the subject as communicated by the viewer; and
 - responsive to the addition of an item to the structure, adding a connector that represents a connection between the additional item and the structure.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting flat images such as photographs or drawings.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox includes selecting a 3-dimensional shape.

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- 44 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of connecting one or more items includes
connecting a flat image and a selected 3-dimensional shape such that the image becomes the
46 surface of the selected shape.
- 48 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any
symbolic analysis of the representations.
- 50 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any
interpretations of the representations.
- 52 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any oral
54 descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic
structure.
- 56 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any written
58 descriptions in one or more electronic files that can be associated with the electronic
structure.
- 60 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any non-
62 verbal descriptions in one or more electronic video files that can be associated with the
electronic structure.
- 64 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing explanations includes storing any
66 explanations and the electronic structure being explained together on a network server.
- 68 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing an index to any electronic
structures that are stored on the network server.
- 70 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing an index includes providing a list of
72 electronic structures by the subject of the electronic structures.
- 74 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting items from an electronic toolbox
includes selecting one or more electronic drawing tools that can be used to draw the item.
- 76 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more explanations includes storing
78 a description of the intended meaning of the items in the structure at the time it was being
assembled.
- 80 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assembling includes assembling structures having
82 more than five dimensions.
- 84 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assembling includes using art materials to
assemble the structure such as pens, paints, photographs, and drawings.
- 86 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting one or more items with a logical
88 connection includes using hierarchical relations between the items.
- 90 19. The method of claim 2, wherein the viewer is more than one person.

- 92 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
94 recording one more explanations of the electronic structure by other individuals that have
viewed the electronic structure;
96 storing the explanations on an electronic media; and
98 logically linking the stored explanation with the electronic structure.
- 100 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of logically linking the stored explanation with the
electronic structure includes the step of creating an electronic link, such as a hyperlink, to
102 both the explanation and a stored copy of the electronic structure.
- 104 22. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of permitting modification of the
electronic structure by the viewer in order to apply the symbolic ideas represented by
106 electronic structure to a different subject.
- 108 23. A software system for facilitating the creation of one or more symbolic structures, said
comprising:
110 a processor for processing one or more software routines;
112 an electronic display connected to said processor for displaying output as requested by
114 the software routines;
116 electronic memory connected to said processor for storing a collection of electronic
media that can be used to represent information concerning a given subject; and
118 logically connected to said electronic memory and the processor, a software routine
120 capable of providing:
an electronic toolbox;
122 an n-dimensional electronic palette for placing one or more items from the
124 electronic toolbox into n-dimensional space; and
126 a dimensional routine, wherein such dimensional routine enables a user to view
and edit any structures using the electronic toolbox by changing at least one-dimension
128 of the n-dimensional palette.
- 130 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic
toolbox that includes links to one or more media items stored in electronic memory.
- 132 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine is capable of providing an electronic
134 toolbox that includes one or more objects that visually represent logical relations.
- 136 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the electronic memory is capable of storing one or more
structures created on the electronic palette using the electronic toolbox.
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- 140 27. The system of claim 23, wherein the electronic memory includes one or more electronic
media that have been added by a user.
- 142 28. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can
change the dimension of time.
- 144 29. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine includes a dimensional routine that can
146 change or more dimensions of three-dimensional space.
- 148 30. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that
150 is capable of putting one or more items of electronic media into motion within the electronic
palette.
- 152 31. The system of claim 23, wherein the software routine further includes a software routine that
154 is capable of making one or more items of electronic media flash within the electronic
palette.

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